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NOTE

The subsequent fate of the ORE study: Post Occupation Italian Politics, which is discussed in this paper, is of interest in that it affords a rounded picture of how the Intelligence Staff operated in a matter of considerable interest to the Western Europe Branch.

The last draft of the study was returned to the IS on 27 February, all feasible corrections having been made, all meaningless or misleading requests for substantive changes having been overlooked. The IS finally again returned the study to the Western Europe Branch on 9 April. In the meantime, or more precisely, on 29 March, the Saturday Evening Post published an article by Ernest O. Hauser entitled, "Is Italy Growing another Mussolini?" This article substantially supported the views expressed nearly three months before, in the original draft of the WE study of Post War Italian Politics. This fact is mentioned, not because the Saturday Evening Post is regarded as a first class intelligence source but because Mr. Hauser's knowledge of Italy is obviously superior to that of the members of the Intelligence Staff.

In returning the study on 9 April, the Chief of the IS appended to it the following memorandum:

"I recognize in the present draft a few inserted sentences and other minor modifications apparently intended to meet my criticism of the earlier draft. It appears to me, however, that the present draft is essentially unchanged, that on the whole my marginal notes on the earlier one and the comment in my informal note to you of 17 January would apply equally to it. Since there appears to be no presently urgent need for a special estimate on this subject, I would suggest that it be passed over in this form and covered in due course in the forthcoming Italian situation report".

Since the study deals with events which even now will not begin to take place for at least three months, it is clear that the study cannot be considered out of date. It is, indeed, still very much in advance, in a time sense, of the usual run of studies that the IS permits to be released. The above memorandum however makes clear the basic reason why this paper - which is still valid and may under certain circumstances become vital, has been rejected. The WE did not conform to all the changes that were required by the Chief of IS; the changes rejected were substantive, and it is on the basis of this legitimate exercise of WE judgment that this carefully executed piece of intelligence has been discarded. This is the more interesting because the general policy of ORE has recognized the inability of the IS to keep informed of intelligence in all the countries of the world and has, it was supposed, restricted the task of the IS to making non-substantive changes in ORE manuscripts.

The above memorandum is highly significant, however, in that it puts the IS on record as exercising a power which it cannot by the widest stretch of the imagination be said to have the knowledge to exercise...and in so doing to assume the responsibility for destroying the work of the expert personnel in the geographic branches. Under such circumstances, the ORE cannot operate and, should they continue, the whole work of CIG will be brought to nothing.

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